



UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Fish Platform: Do What's Right For Alaska's Fishing Communities

- ***"Resource First" Philosophy***
- ***Professional ADF&G Management with Adequate Funding***
- ***Fishery Advisor***
- ***Balanced Board and Council Appointments***
- ***Aggressive Marketing Campaign***
- ***No Fish Farming***

I am not only a champion for Alaska's fishing industry, but a part of it. My family is proud to be a Bristol Bay fishing family. That's why, as Governor I will do what's right for Alaska's fishing communities. **I know the resource must come first in our management decisions.** If we manage for abundance, we should have enough fish for all our needs.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

I will have a Department of Fish & Game run by professionals with the budget necessary to pay our experienced biologists a competitive salary and the resources needed to produce sound science for our management and allocation decisions. A Department of Fish & Game that knows their job is science and management and that allocation decisions are up to the Boards.

My general direction to the Department of Fish & Game and the State Boards will be to manage for abundance and sustained yield. If we do our job right as trustees of our public resources we should have enough fish and game for all Alaskans. I do not want to see us return to the days when ADF&G decisions were based too much on science promoting environmentalist politics.

Fishery Advisor

I will have a strong lead person in the Governor's office as a point of contact for all fishery user groups. The person will be my lead advisor on fisheries and ocean policy.

Knowles refused to have a fishery specialist in the Governor's Office. Instead, he had environmentalists dictating natural resource policy.

Board & Council Appointments

I will not have a single test for membership on the Board of Fish or the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. My appointments will be Alaskans who know our fisheries, who have high ethical standards, who are able to look beyond personal interests and who are committed to protecting the interests of our fishing communities. We need Alaskans who understand that the resource is their primary concern.

Council System

In general, we can be proud of the job we have done in protecting our fish stocks. I support the current Council system and do not support the recommendation from Tony Knowles and the Pew Commission that the regional fishery council system must be changed – which only adds another layer of Washington DC bureaucracy to decide how Alaska's fisheries are managed. This is a retreat from local control of our fisheries to more central control by the federal government. Senator Ted Stevens fought long, difficult battles to put Alaskans in a majority voting position on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. I will do all I can to make sure the system they created stays intact.

Alaska's Salmon Industry

Things are finally starting to look up. With the state and federal assistance (like the Fisheries Revitalization Strategy program) the industry is fighting its way back. 2005 fish exports were nearly \$2 billion, up 47% over 2002, but we still have a long way to go to get back our historical salmon market share. You have my commitment to work with you to achieve that goal.

Under Tony Knowles, the salmon industry crashed. His response was to appoint study groups and task forces. His fish policy was divisive, and pitted fishing groups and regions against each other.

As your Governor I will stand with you, not against you. Together we will fight for our markets! With the right handling and marketing including strong regional branding efforts, we will make sure when people buy salmon they automatically ask for Wild Alaska Salmon.

Crab Rationalization

Alaska fishery management solutions must be on a fishery-by-fishery & region-by-region basis. Under my administration, the industry will be at the table. The Knowles crab rationalization plan is an example of fishery management decisions made without clearly understanding the impacts on Alaskans. The fleet size contracted quickly and many Alaskans are now out of work.

I am not in favor of moving forward with Gulf of Alaska rationalization without clear information about the effects on Alaska's fishermen. I am opposed to management actions that cut off Alaskans from our fisheries no matter the original intent. Separating Alaskans from the resource separates Alaskans from their jobs.

Mariculture

Alaska should lead the way in shellfish mariculture. What's needed is leadership, not roadblocks, from State government. With our abundance of pure protected waters, Alaska should be a world leader in shellfish mariculture. Alaska's shellfish growers faced opposition from the Knowles administration. I will work with our shellfish growers to make sure state permitting is not a hindrance to their business. We will grow our mariculture business in a way that does not interfere with established dive fisheries, but that will produce quality products for the marketplace and jobs for our coastal communities.

Seafood Marketing

The state must play an active role in marketing our seafood. The Governor should be the chief marketer of all of Alaska's commercial resources—fish in particular—by leading high-level trade missions promoting our products, by directing the Office of International Trade and the Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development to work with industry to access the world's markets and by working with the Legislature to make sure we have the funding necessary to support an aggressive seafood marketing campaign.

I will not make the mistakes of the Knowles administration concerning our fishing industry. I will not serve farmed salmon at Alaska seafood promotions like the Knowles administration did in Korea in 1999.

I will not waste \$55 million in state money on an overbuilt seafood plant in Anchorage, Alaska Seafood International, that was doomed from the start, and then spend more state money to keep it open until the next Governor takes office.

Fish Farming

I am strongly opposed to fin fish farming in Alaska waters or in federal waters adjacent to Alaskan waters. Fin fish farming is a threat to our natural stocks. The recent instances of Atlantic salmon being found in Alaska waters and the threat of sea lice infestation from fish farms confirm my position. Our wild salmon are the best and we need to protect them.

As Governor, I support our Congressional delegation's efforts to see that Alaska's fisheries resources are protected from this threat. We have a legitimate interest in making sure irresponsible fish farming practices in the Lower 48 and Canada do not destroy our fisheries.

Transportation/Infrastructure Needs

Alaska's fishing industry continues to struggle with limited or inadequate airports, docks, ferry service and other transportation links. Limited transportation infrastructure increases product costs and limits marketing opportunities for fresh seafood. It makes Alaska products less competitive in the market place. I will work with the industry on a comprehensive plan to build the infrastructure we need to get our products to market

Steller Sea Lions

Regimes to protect Steller sea lions must be based on sound science not personal agendas. Many in our fishing industry are concerned that the Biological Opinion soon to be released by NMFS's Protected Resources Division is being driven by the authors' personal biases against the fishing industry not by objective science. Through the comment process, the Council system and in consultation with our Congressional delegation I will fight in every way possible to make sure our fishing communities are protected from the personal agenda's of federal fishery managers.